

CITY OF REVERE - COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
AGENDA – April 10, 2018 6:00 PM (Carry over from March Meeting Cancellation)
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
Ralph DeCicco - Chair
Email: disabilities@revere.org Phone: 781-286-8267



Salute to the Flag

Roll Call of Members: Present: Ralph DeCicco, Rick Freni, Robert Bent, Michelle DeBellis, Enza Goodwin, David Haesy

Absent: Paul Mazzone

Item #1: Introduction of New Commission on Disabilities Member Rick Freni as Co-Chair.

Item #2: Commission Member Enza Goodwin, saw on TV a Sheriff's department that had created a special sticker decal to place on homes where residents with special needs who may not be able to respond to verbal commands. I went online to find it and it looked very interesting. I was thinking about this idea and wanted to see if we could tweak it a little bit and create a sticker/decal to place on homes that have residents that have any form of a disability. It would be similar to the decals that they use to or may still be placed on windows that have children in them in case of an emergency. This would greatly benefit first responders in the event of a medical emergency. I am also going to be mentioning this at my next meeting with the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region (MBHSR) group because this could also be an added benefit to assist in the Critical Transportation Needs (CTN) planning and implementation if ever an emergency evacuation be necessary. Unfortunately we do not have the funds in our budget to be able to implement this so I thought I would reach out to our emergency services departments to see what their thoughts are along with the Mayor's office. Our goal with piloting this program is we would also be able to create a database of the residents who ask for one of these and this information could be passed along to our first responders.

Enza discussed desire to have a decal that recognizes those that may be non-verbal. All members are in support of the idea because of the safety of all with disabilities. A conversation is going to continue to be had with Chief Bright to discuss how we can get these made in bulk with the city emblem.

Item #3: CODA- (Commissions on Disabilities Alliance) Monthly Conference call Meeting for March: Had conference calls on Wednesday 3/7 and 4/4. Items on the Agendas included:

- **Conversations Regarding ADA Education and Reform Act” (H.R. 620) Myths and Truths About the “ADA Education and Reform Act” (H.R. 620). The so-called ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017 is not what its proponents claim and will not achieve its stated goals. Instead, this bill undermines the very purpose of the landmark civil rights law, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and harms people with disabilities. (I am including a copy of the full letter from the ACLU to each COD member during or meeting)**

We also discussed pending Legislative items coming up such as us being in favor of:

- **Strong support for the Alternative Housing Voucher Program, Massachusetts State Budget line item #7004-9030, and ask that you support increasing its funding to \$7.7 million dollars in the FY19 budget, from the current level of \$5 million**

Ralph discussed the need for the same kind of letter or response

- **Strong support for Senate Bill 1379 and House Bill 2498 “An Act Relative to the Architectural Access Board”. S. 1379 and H. 2498 would align our state access regulations of the Architectural Access Board (AAB), with the federal architectural regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Aligning the AAB with the ADA is imperative to ensuring access to employment, housing, and equal civil and human rights for all people with disabilities across the commonwealth.**

Ralph discussed how certain areas of the state are more proactive and law abiding. It is necessary that everything is uniform across the state. Equality for all no matter where you live or visit.

Item #4: Reminder of Scheduled Events for April: (Along with Events that took place in March)

- **Drop and Stay playgroup continues to run on Monday nights at the Rec from 6:00-7:30 PM.**
- **Special Olympics hosted its Polar Plunge on Saturday, March 17th. \$113,000 raised in Revere Plunge. Flag football may begin in May. Young Athletes to return in the fall.**
- **April is Autism Awareness Month. Revere SEPAC has created an autism awareness calendar for the month of April with many free child and family events. The calendar flyer can be found by visiting Revere Sepac on Facebook and also on the calendar at the City of Revere's Homepage www.Revere.org.**
- **Join us for our first annual Walk for Autism on Saturday, April 21st at 11:00am at the Harry Della Russo Stadium. This family friendly event will feature music and a face painter. More information can be found on our website.**
- **Saturday April 21st will also be the 10th annual Little Ricky Foundation for Autism on at Breakaway Danvers. Tickets are only \$50 and include dinner, comedy, dancing, raffles and more. Call or text 781-704-1300 or 781-656-5013 for tickets. You can also visit Littlericky.vpweb.com or email Littlericky4autism@gmail.com**
Over \$100,000 raised which supports scholarships, supplies and fieldtrips.
- **The next SEPAC meeting will take place on 4/25 6:00 PM at The Revere League for Special Needs 200 Winthrop Ave.**

Item #5: Old Business.

- **Update and Discussion About the Disabled Children and Young Adult Art Pilot Program**
Ralph received a check for \$1177.62. currently trying to locate a location and time to offer a program. Rick is going to join Robert on this project.
- **Update (If any) Regarding Letter to Mayors office regarding City Hall basement floor door and entrance.**

Ralph spoke to Nick from the Mayor's Office and got a verbal commitment to get electronic openers and landings in front of City Hall corrected.

- **Update On Metro Boston Homeland Security Region (MBHSR) Working Group Meetings. (CTN Population)**

Surveys were sent out to companies and agencies to help gather information about transporting certain residents in case of an emergency. Next meeting is end of April or beginning of May. Plan should be done mid to late July.

Item #6: Late Items.

- 1. City Council transferred funds (122828-58000) of \$50,000 to fix Legion front stairs. Ralph asked them to also create a permanent ramp at that location and it has been approved.**
- 2. Ralph has served as a liaison to the residents and management of the Carabetta buildings on Ocean Avenue. Elevators have been shut down by the State Elevator Inspectors since mid-February. Ralph has helped residents move into hotels for the time being which is being paid for by management.**
- 3. Ralph proposed setting up a database much like the ROTC snow angels program to have senior and disabled residents who are interested in snow removal by youngsters for a fee be in contact with one another. We would only be supplying a referral list for the residents and no involvement with the cost or timeline. That would be set up by the resident and the young adult that they contact**
- 4. Rick proposed having the top locating device and other wandering-prevention technology companies come to one of our monthly meetings along with a representative from the police department to discuss benefits of a tracking device for those w/ disabilities.**

Item #7: Open Forum – Residents concerns with ongoing issues, questions or feedback

Item #8: Reminder:

The Commission on Disabilities has office hours on Fridays from 8:15-12:15 in the Veterans Services Office in the rear of the legion Building at 249R Broadway which is next door to city hall. You can call for an appointment if you would like but do not need one. You will be able to talk to someone from our 311 Constituent Service Center on other days when you call our office at 781-286-8267 They will be able to answer most questions but if they are unable to or if you would like a call back from our office they can transfer you to the Disability offices voicemail and someone will get back to you as soon as they can.

Also please let us know if you would like something discussed or brought up and added to our monthly meeting agenda. You can let us know if you would like to come and speak on it. Our Commission is here to help and assist all the disabled residents and families of Revere.

Adjournment- Next Meeting will be Tuesday May 8, 2018 at 6:00 PM